

The Age 60 rule should be dropped or amended as soon as possible. Following the example of 44 other large nations around the world, reaching the end of one's 65th year should be the absolute minimum. Preferably, reaching full social security age of 67 is more appropriate, with the same 1st Class medical we now require.

There is no medical or scientific evidence or abstract that supports this lurid rule. This rule was a contrivance that resulted in favoritism between the now deceased Administrator Quesada and the former chair of American Airlines. We all know the truth; now it's time to correct it. There is no need for FAA to cover for previous administrations that created bad law. It's not your fault, so correct it today. For those misguided individuals that believe there might be a health issue, then simply follow the lead set by other nations and pair one pilot over 60 with another pilot under 60.

In less than 48 months the beginning of the worst crunch for wisdom and talent in the cockpit will be upon us, with the huge leading edge of the baby boom reaching retirement. Then within the 60 months that follow, a huge portion of all currently flying pilots will be forced to retire, leaving us with a large number of 350 hour "captains" at the bottom of the experience chain. We've already seen the cost of this real shortage in the increasing number of accidents and deaths at the training entry level. This is clearly the result of these ranks being completely void of seasoned instructors, all of whom have now transitioned to better paying jobs [communters]. This leaves the CFI slots filled with nothing but new CFIs. This proves again that there is no substitute for experience. There is NO substitute for wisdom and judgment. And judgment, good judgment, comes only with experience and a lifetime of "close" calls. Don't send this most valuable resource to the couch 7 years early. The price is too great to pay. The transference of knowledge from these experienced pilots to the younger generation of pilots is THE GREATEST TRAINING RESOURCE WE HAVE in our industry.

You make a grave error in allowing this baseless rule to continue to exist.

Thank you,
Robert H. Bruce
Proprietor
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